

# Urgent Letter to City Council re: Policy Order #12 from CSBA & CCC

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Mon 4/13/2015 3:38 PM

City Clerk Agenda

To: Benzan, Dennis <[dbenzan@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dbenzan@cambridgema.gov)>; Carlone, Dennis <[dcarlone@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dcarlone@cambridgema.gov)>; McGovern, Marc <[mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov)>; Cheung, Leland <[lcheung@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lcheung@cambridgema.gov)>; Maher, David <[dmaher@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dmaher@cambridgema.gov)>; Simmons, Denise <[dsimmons@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dsimmons@cambridgema.gov)>; Kelley, Craig <[ckelley@cambridgema.gov](mailto:ckelley@cambridgema.gov)>; Mazen, Nadeem <[nmazen@cambridgema.gov](mailto:nmazen@cambridgema.gov)>; Toomey, Tim <[ttoomey@CambridgeMA.GOV](mailto:ttoomey@CambridgeMA.GOV)>; City Council <[CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV](mailto:CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV)>; Paden, Liza <[lpaden@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lpaden@cambridgema.gov)>; Lopez, Donna <[dlopez@cambridgema.gov](mailto:dlopez@cambridgema.gov)>;

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Letter to Council from CSBA & CCC .docx;

Monday, April 15, 2015

Dear members of the City Council,

The **Central Square Business Association (CSBA) and the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce (CCC) are firmly opposed to the Policy Resolution written by City Councillors Mazen and Carlone being presented tonight to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Central Square Overlay District** We believe this proposal would reverse the progress that has been made in planning a vibrant future for Central Square. We ask that you stand with us in ensuring that this policy order is defeated.

The impact of this Policy Order would severely diminish the rights of property owners in Central Square. Instead of encouraging housing development, it will essentially halt future development opportunities in Central Square. Many residents, Councillors, City staff, and business people devoted countless hours working together during the C2 discussion to understand existing conditions and seek enhanced solutions for Central Square's future. The City has invested in a comprehensive effort to envision a unique, exciting, accessible, relevant and livable Central Square for everyone. That democratic process should continue in order to build broad consensus and employ a balanced approach towards development in Central Square..

Retailers, residents and property owners all want Central Square to be a vibrant, thriving "downtown" for anyone who lives, works, shops, or visits. What happens now should create or maintain a better place for all to use and enjoy now and in the future. Making improvements requires a balance of economic vitality, housing opportunity for all, a greater number of independently-owned businesses and good jobs for Cambridge residents. Over the past several years the Central Square Advisory Committee has met and discussed the creation of a strategic plan for future development ensuring that Central Square will be a vibrant and sustainable retail, residential and civic downtown. The vision for a better Central Square is not just today or tomorrow, but for many years to come.

The City Council must demonstrate its leadership by opposing this Policy Order and supporting the on-going process of developing a vision for Central Square. The business community of Cambridge must stand together with residents to ensure that our shared community vision will come to fruition.

Your attention and support for this matter is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact the CSBA, the CCC or either of us if you would like to discuss the issue further.

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